

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SSM-03
MCT-01 HA-05 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /070 W
-----057533 101552Z /43

O 101525Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7047
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1295

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, UNSC, LE, IS
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: MOLESTATION OF UN OBSERVERS

REF: BEIRUT 1240

1. I HAVE JUST (1620 LOCAL MARCH 10) TALKED TO BASHIR GEMAYEL ABOUT SITUATION IN SOUTH. HE SAID HE RECEIVED RESPONSE FROM SAMI SHIDIAC AT 1400 LOCAL SAYING THAT HIS FORCES HAD NOT BEEN INVOLVED IN WOUNDING OF UN OBSERVER. BASHIR HAD IN ANY EVENT SENT HIM A MESSAGE TELLING HIM TO KEEP THINGS QUIET FOR NEXT TEN DAYS AND NOT TO STEAL EITHER VEHICLES OR FLAK JACKETS. BASHIR SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE FRANKLY DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG SITUATION COULD CONTINUE AS IT WAS.

2. I SAID I UNDERSTOOD THAT THE CHRISTIAN FORCES MIGHT BE HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE PALESTINIANS BUT I COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT TROUBLE THEY COULD BE HAVING WITH UN. THERE WAS NO JUSTIFICATION FOR THEIR STEALING JEEPS
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AND OTHER EQUIPMENT BELONGING TO UN OBSERVERS. TO THIS BASHIR REPLIED THE CHRISTIAN FORCES WERE SHORT OF EQUIPMENT AND HAD NO OTHER WAY OF GETTING IT. SINCE THIS WAS A TELEPHONE CALL, I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY THAT I ASSUMED THE ISRAELIS WERE SUPPLYING THEIR REQUIREMENTS, BUT I SAID I ASSUMED "OTHER PEOPLE" WERE TAKING CARE OF THEIR REQUIREMENTS. BASHIR SAID, "BUT WE HAVE TO PAY FOR EVERYTHING*"

3. COMMENT: WE ARE OBVIOUSLY DEALING WITH A BUNCH OF JUVENITE
DELINQUENTS AND/OR COMMON CRIMINALS. WERE IT NOT SO TRAGIC,
IT WOULD BE COMIC. I HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THE ISRAELIS
CAN FIND SOME MEANS TO KEEP THEIR CHRISTIAN CLIENTS
SUFFICIENTLY SUPPLIED WITH EQUIPMENT SO THEY DON'T
HAVE TO LOOT IT ALL FROM THE UNMO'S.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

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